

REMARKS

Claims 26 to 41 are pending in the application. Paragraph 3 of the Office Action objected to the drawings for the following reasons: (1) reference numbers “82” and “222” are not mentioned in the specification, (2) reference number 200 is mentioned in the specification but not shown in the figures and (3) reference number “224” has been used to designate a partition and a port. . Paragraph 7 of the Office Action rejects claims 26 – 27, 30 and 38 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,983,591 to Ohtaki et al. (the ‘591 patent). Paragraph 8 of the Office Action rejects claims 26 – 27, 38 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,357,869 to Howard (the ‘869 patent). Paragraph 9 rejects claims 26 – 27, 29 and 38 – 39 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,646,630 to Russell (the ‘630 patent). Paragraph 10 of the Office Action rejects claims 28 and 32 – 35 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘591 patent as applied to claim 26, in view of German Patent No. DE3630324 to Langenfeld and U.S. Patent No. 3,554,497 to Zipper. Paragraph 11 of the Office Action rejects claims 26 – 27, 31, 36 – 38 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,634,052 to Hanson in view of the ‘869 patent. Finally, paragraph 12 of the Office Action rejects claim 41 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘869 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,461,476 to North.

Information Disclosure Statement

With regard to the information disclosure statement issue as set forth in paragraph two of the office action, applicant attaches copies of the postcard and cover letter which indicate that the Non-Patent Literature documents were included with the IDS. However, applicant has included a replacement copy with this office action.

Drawings

With regard to the drawings, applicant has amended paragraphs 0077, 0078 and 0081 to overcome the objections to the drawings and specification. Applicant believes that the drawings and specification are now in condition for allowance. No new matter has been added by the amendments to the specification.

35 U.S.C. 102(b) Rejections

Independent claims 26 calls for, among other things,

variable power unit having a power unit body casing and a power induction unit, wherein said power induction unit produces a varying magnetic field in response to supplied power; and

a pad unit having at least one piece of ferrous or any other magnetic material that moves in response to the varying magnetic field produced by said power induction unit.

Newly added independent claim 42 calls for, among other things,

a power unit having . . . a plurality of electromagnets mounted within said first housing, wherein said plurality of electromagnets produce a varying magnetic field in response to changes in power supplied to each of said plurality of electromagnets; and

a pad unit having . . . at least one piece of ferrous or other magnetic material . . . that . . . rotationally moves in response to said varying magnetic field produced by said plurality of electromagnets.

Newly added independent claim 43 calls for, among other things,

a power induction unit within said first housing, wherein said power induction unit produces a varying magnetic field in response to supplied power; and

at least one piece of ferrous or other magnetic material . . . eccentrically rotatable in response to said varying magnetic field produced by said power induction unit.

Finally, newly added independent claim 44 calls for, among other things,

a power unit having . . . a plurality of electromagnets orientated within said first housing, wherein said plurality of electromagnets produces a variable magnetic field in response to supplied power; and

a pad unit having . . . at least one piece of ferrous or other magnetic material . . . rotatable and radially moveable with respect to said second housing bore center of radius in response to said variable magnetic field produced by said plurality of electromagnets.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of independent claim 26 and any similar rejection that may be made on newly added independent claims 42 – 44. In particular, with respect to claims 26 and 43, each claim calls for a ferrous or other magnetic material in a pad unit that moves in response to a varying magnetic field produced in a power unit. *Ohtaki et al.*, *Howard*, and *Russell* each fail to teach or disclose a power unit that produces a varying magnetic field in response to a varying power supply that causes at least one piece of ferrous or any other magnetic material to move in response to the varying magnetic field. Moreover,

with respect to claims 42 and 44, each claim calls for a power unit having a plurality of electromagnets that produce a varying magnetic field in response to supplied power and at least one piece of ferrous or any other magnetic material that moves in response to the varying magnetic field. *Ohtaki et al.*, *Howard*, and *Russell* each fail to teach or disclose a power unit having a plurality of electromagnets that produces a varying magnetic field in response to supplied power.

Ohtaki et al. discloses a window cleaning device having cleaning elements C and C' arranged on the inside and outside of a windowpane. The cleaning elements are held tightly together on the windowpane through magnetic force by means of electromagnets 3 and 3'. Motors M and M' rotationally drive brushes 2 and 2'. *Ohtaki et al.* fails to teach, disclose or at the very least suggest a power unit that produces a varying magnetic field that causes at least one piece of ferrous or any other magnetic material to move in response to the varying magnetic field.

Howard discloses a window cleaning device having a pair of lazy arms 5 that can reach all portions of a window glass 1. Secured to the free end of the lazy arms 5 is a cleaning element 6 which comprises a body portion 7 of steel or iron to which a sponge or scrubbing pad 9 is secured. A cleaning element 10 is provided with an electromagnet that has a handle 12. In operation, electric current is supplied through the electromagnet in element 10, which causes the magnet to draw member 7 in contact with the window and along the window in response to movement of cleaning element 10. *Howard* fails to teach, disclose or at the very least suggest a power unit that produces a varying magnetic field that causes at least one piece of ferrous or any other magnetic material to move in response to the varying magnetic field.

Russell like *Ohtaki et al.* and *Howard* teaches the use of an electromagnet for securing a slave unit to a master unit through a window 27. Similar to the latter two references, *Russell* fails to teach, disclose or at the very least suggest a power unit that produces a varying magnetic field that causes at least one piece of ferrous or any other magnetic material to move in response to the varying magnetic field.

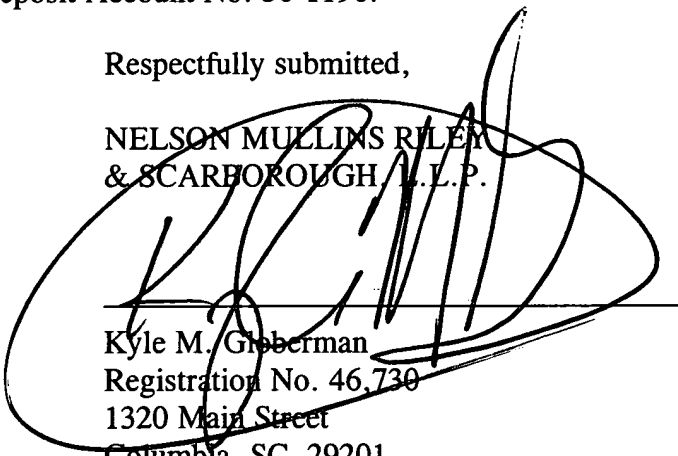
Hanson teaches a handheld tank cleaning device. *Hanson*, fails to teach or disclose any type of power unit that produces a varying magnetic field in response to supplied power. Moreover, *Hanson* fails to remedy the deficiencies found in *Russell*, *Ohtaki et al.* and *Howard*. and, therefore, fails to make obvious the claimed invention.

CONCLUSION

For at least the above reasons, independent claims 26, 42, 43 and 44 are allowable over the cited prior art references. Applicant submits that independent claims 26 and 42 - 44 are in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 27 - 41 directly or indirectly depend from independent claim 26. These dependent claims recite further limitations and are allowable in their respective combinations. Favorable action and withdrawal of the present rejections and objections is, therefore, respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at his convenience to resolve any remaining issues. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1196.

Respectfully submitted,

NELSON MULLINS RILEY
& SCARBOROUGH L.L.P.

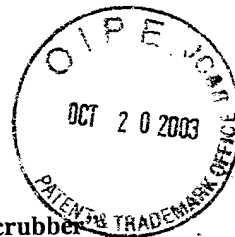


Kyle M. Groberman
Registration No. 46,730
1320 Main Street
Columbia, SC 29201
(404) 817-6204
Fax (803) 255-9831



The stamp of the Patent Office hereon acknowledges receipt of the following:

1. Transmittal sheet (original plus copy (2 sheets))
2. Information Disclosure Statement (1 sheet)
3. PTO-1449 (1 sheet)
4. Copies of cited references (20 references)
5. Return Postcard



RE: U.S. Patent Application of Gene Watkins
Entitled: "Induction Liquid Pump and Magnetic Tank Scrubber"
Serial No.: 10/627,946
Filed: July 25, 2003
Our Ref: 20457/09000
Date: October 17, 2003

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STAMP